

Fall 2014

# In The Next Room (or the vibrator play)

School of Theatre and Dance  
*Illinois State University*

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2014 - 2015

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October 2 – 4 and 8 – 11 @ 7:30 pm

Matinee: October 5 @ 2 pm

## IN THE NEXT ROOM or the vibrator play by Sarah Ruhl

Director.....David Ian Lee\*  
 Scenic designer.....Jen Kazmierczak\*  
 Costume designer.....Mark Spain  
 Hair & makeup designer.....Samantha Peroutka  
 Lighting designer.....Marly Wooster  
 Sound designer.....Chris Cummings  
 Stage manager.....Connor C. Herbeck

### CAST

Elizabeth.....Brandi Jones  
 Sabrina Daldry.....Allison Sokolowski  
 Annie.....Kelly Steik  
 Catherine Givings.....Natalie Blackman\*  
 Dr. Givings.....Colin Lawrence\*  
 Mr. Daldry.....Graham Gusloff  
 Leo.....Dario Carrion

Original Broadway Production by Lincoln Center Theater New York City, 2009

*IN THE NEXT ROOM or the vibrator play* was originally commissioned and produced by Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Berkeley, CA

Tony Taccone, Artistic Director / Susan Medak, Managing Director

*IN THE NEXT ROOM or the vibrator play* was developed at New Dramatists

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

There will be a 15 - minute intermission between Acts I & II

Place: A prosperous spa town outside of New York City

Time: The dawn of the age of electricity; and after the Civil War; circa 1880s

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\*Denotes Master of Fine Arts or Master of Arts/Science Candidate

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## Playwright's Note

To my husband. For the garden on Hope Street.

## Director's Note

To my wife. For the Kew exodus and all other adventures.



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## Guest Artist LYNN NOTTAGE

Illinois State University is pleased to host Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and screenwriter Lynn Nottage. She will join us on November 8 and 9, during the run of the School of Theatre and Dance/Crossroads Project production of her play *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark*. Her plays have been produced widely in the United States and throughout the world. They include: *By The Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Lily Award, Drama Desk Nomination), *Ruined* (Pulitzer Prize, OBIE, Lucille Lortel, New York Drama Critics Circle, Audelco, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Award), *Intimate Apparel* (American Theatre Critics and New York Drama Critics Circle Awards for Best Play), *Fabulation, or The Re-Education of Undine* (OBIE Award), *Crumbs from the Table of Joy*, *Las Meninas*, *Por 'knockers*, and *POOF!*.

Nottage is the recipient of a MacArthur "Genius Grant" Fellowship, Steinberg "Mimi" Distinguished Playwright Award, the Dramatists Guild Hull-Warriner Award, the inaugural Horton Foote Prize, Helen Hayes Award, the Lee Reynolds Award, and the Jewish World Watch iWitness Award. Her other honors include the National Black Theatre Fest's August Wilson Playwriting Award, a Guggenheim Grant, PEN/Laura Pels Award, Lucille Lortel Fellowship and Visiting Research Fellowship at Princeton University. She is a graduate of Brown University and the Yale School of Drama, where she has been a faculty member since 2001. She currently teaches graduate playwriting at Columbia School of the Arts.

Please join us for the following events:

### Saturday, November 8

7:30-10:30 Performance of *BY THE WAY, MEET VERA STARK* – Followed by a Q&A with Lynn Nottage

### Sunday, November 9

12:00-1:30 Interview with Lynn Nottage with presentation of Scenes/Monologues from her other plays – *RUINED*, *INTIMATE APPAREL* etc.

2:00-4:30 Performance of *BY THE WAY, MEET VERA STARK*

7:00 - 8:00 Fall Speaker Series in the Center for the Performing Arts Theatre



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***By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* by Lynn Nottage**

*directed by Don LaCasse*

Center for the Performing Arts Theatre

November 6 – 8 and November 12 – 15, 7:30 p.m.

Matinee November 9, 2:00 p.m.



It's the 1930s when we first meet Vera Stark, an African-American maid to a white movie star, Gloria Mitchell, known as "America's little sweetie pie." Vera props up the neurotic Gloria even while she and her friends are looking to break into the movies. They know their options are limited to playing slaves, maids or mammies, but Vera captures a part — playing Gloria's maid in *The Belle of New Orleans*, a costume drama that becomes a classic. Seventy years later, an academic colloquium gathers to "deconstruct" her legacy, but by that time Vera has vanished. We see her only in clips from a 1973 talk show appearance and in a final coda in which she talks with Gloria during the making of their film. The *Hollywood Reporter* called the play "a quicksilver construction, blending disparate elements of genre parody, academic cant, broad humor, social comment and legitimate pathos while manipulating layers of irony, some blatant, others transparent, and still more downright subtle."



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The goals of the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival are:

to encourage, recognize, and celebrate the finest and most diverse work produced in university and college theater programs;

to provide opportunities for participants to develop their theater skills and insight; and achieve professionalism;

to improve the quality of college and university theater in America;

to encourage colleges and universities to give distinguished productions of new plays, especially those written by students; the classics, revitalized or newly conceived; and experimental works.

Through state, regional, and national festivals, KCACTF participants celebrate the creative process, see one another's work, and share experiences and insights within the community of theater artists. The KCACTF honors excellence of overall production and offers student artists individual recognition through awards and scholarships in playwriting, acting, criticism, directing, and design.

The KCACTF is a year-round program in eight geographic regions in the United States. Regional activities are coordinated through eight KCACTF regional chairs and eight KCACTF playwriting awards chairs. With funding and administrative support from the Kennedy Center, the regional chair coordinates with the Co-Managers of KCACTF all aspects of the adjudication of productions on the local and regional level and supervises regional-level KCACTF award competitions. The playwriting chair works with schools that have entered new and student-written plays by providing expertise in the development of new scripts—assessment specifically designed for a developing play—and by providing information on the numerous playwriting awards offered.

In January and February of each year, regional festivals showcase the finest of each region's entered productions and offer a variety of activities, including workshops, symposia, and regional-level award programs. Regional festival productions are judged by a panel of three judges selected by the Kennedy Center and the KCACTF national committee. These judges in consultation with the Artistic Director select four to six of the best and most diverse regional festival productions to be showcased in the spring at the annual noncompetitive national festival at the Kennedy Center, all expenses paid.

Since its inception, KCACTF has given more than 400,000 college theater students the opportunity to have their work critiqued, improve their dramatic skills and receive national recognition for excellence. More than 16 million theatergoers have attended approximately 10,000 festival productions nationwide.

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There is a performance ticket office (often referred to as "will-call") open one hour before each performance for picking up tickets. For Center for the Performing Arts performances it is the main ticket office. For Westhoff Theatre performances, it is in the Westhoff lobby.

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- Latecomers will be seated at the discretion of the House Manager.
- If you leave your seat during the performance, you may not be reseated.
- Food and drink (except bottled water) are not allowed in the theatre.

*Illinois State University is a member of the National Association of Schools of Theatre and the University/Resident Theatre Association*



*In the Next Room or the vibrator play* (Oct 2-11)

*Oleanna* (Oct 16-28)

*Water by the Spoonful* (Oct 23-Nov 1)

*By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* (Nov 6-15)

*Fall Dance Concert* (Nov 19-22)

*Cabaret* (Feb 12-21)

*School for Wives* (Feb 26-Mar 6)

*Pride and Prejudice* (Mar 24-Apr 4)

*Selkie: Between Land and Sea* (Apr 16-25)

*Spring Dance Concert* (Apr 23-25)

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